(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the expected date of its second phase of expansion programme;

(g) whether it also had a proposal to increase bauxite mining; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the NALCO in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) During the last three years the performance of NALCO against the targets set by the Govt. has been rated as excellent.

(b) and (c) As on 31st March, 1997 the outstanding loan was of the order of Japanese Yen 20 Billions. The entire loan is repayable by NALCO on 30th September, 1998.

(d) to (h) The first phase of expansion involving expansion of capacity of bauxite mines from 2.4 MTPY to 4.8 MTPY and alumina refinery capacity from 0.8 MTPY to 1.575 MTPY at an investment of Rs. 1664.80 crores is under implementation by the company. The scheduled period of completion is 51 months from the date of Govt. approval i.e. 18th December, 1996. The proposal for second phase of expansion relating to expansion of capacity of aluminium smelter and captive power plant has met the pre-PIB clearance.

Outstanding Amount

3554. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the arrears of bills outstanding and due to the Government at present by STD/ISD/PCOs in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total arrears of bills outstanding and due to the Government at present by STD/ISD/PCOs of entire Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the arrears of bills outstanding?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information has been called for and the same will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Restoration of Pension

3555. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6300 dated the 15th May, 1997 and state :

(a) the progress made in processing of the 2 applications for the restoration of pension to the officers of the former Delhi Telephones (now MTNL);

(b) the Pensionary benefit and Dearness Relief sanctioned in each case;

(c) if not, the stage at which the matter stands at present and the number of such applications still pending in the Office of the Chief General Manager, (MTNL) Delhi Telephones, New Delhi; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) In terms of relevant Rules/Orders, the restoration of pension is to be done after a period of 15 years. This period will be calculated from the date on which they received payment of commutation value. Since both the applicants have not secured eligibility condition for commutation value, they have been informed accordingly.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Admissibility of restoration of pension of Shri M.C. Vasudeva and Shri N.K. Aggarwal will be on 26.12.1999 and 22.10.1998 respectively. Amongst this category of officers one application of Shri D.B. Wahi, is pending for want of necessary clarification from the nodal Ministry.

(d) As soon as these cases become admissible as per Rules.

Donations made by SAIL

3556. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding the donations made by SAIL to various organisations appearing in "The Pioneer" dated March 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the donations were part of SAIL's budgets for either publicity or social development projects; and

(d) if not, the reaction of the Government to the donations so made, unauthorisedly causing financial loss to the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) SAIL being one of the largest public sector undertakings is very often approached for donations. Accordingly, Board of Directors of SAIL provide in SAIL's budget, certain amount for donations in order to give financial help for medical, educational, cultural and sports promotional activities etc.

During the last three years, i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, donations totalling Rs. 567.35 lakhs were given. 57 organisations were granted donation by the SAIL Board, in the aforesaid period, from the budget.